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FM AMEMBASSY ABUJA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8907
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 0175
RUEHCD/AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ 0173
RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS 6375
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABUJA 000522

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DOE FOR CAROLYN GAY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/09/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#)

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES LIST
ANNOUNCED

Classified By: DCM Thomas P. Furey for reasons 1.4. (b & d).

¶1. (C) On March 15, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Chairman Maurice Iwu announced the names of the 24 candidates who will be allowed to contest the Nigerian presidential elections scheduled for April 21. Presuming that INEC's exclusion of Vice President and Action Congress candidate Atiku withstands the expected court challenge (see septel), we believe only a handful of the remaining candidates are likely to have a significant impact on the race, and that only two--Katsina State Governor and ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) candidate Umar Yar'adua and former Head of State and All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) candidate Mohammedu Buhari--stand any realistic chance of winning.

¶2. (C) The list below is divided into groups indicating our (strictly informal) sense of the various candidates' chances of having an impact on the race. "Major candidates" are those whom we believe have a chance of making a second round runoff or even winning in the first round; if allowed to stand, Atiku would certainly have been in this group. "Candidates with regional or factional appeal" are, in our judgment, distant dark horses to make a runoff, but could garner enough votes to have an impact on who does. "Minor candidates" would be unlikely to have any impact except in a very close race. We would be surprised if any of the remaining candidates will win any appreciable percentage of the vote.

¶3. (C) Please note that, within the groupings, the candidates are in alphabetical order:

Major Candidates:

Maj-Gen. Mohammedu Buhari (rtd.) of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP)
Governor Umar Yar'Adua of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)

Candidates with Regional or Factional Appeal:

Governor Attahiru Bafarawa Democratic Peoples Party
Governor Orji Uzor Kalu of the Progressive Peoples Alliance (PPA)
Dim Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA)

Prof. Pat Utomi of the African Democratic Congress (ADC)

Minor candidates:

Chief Adebayo Adefarati of the Alliance for Democracy
Alhaji Habu Fari of the National Democratic Party
Arthur Nwankwo of the Peoples Mandate Party
Chief Sunny Okogwu of the Republican Party of Nigeria
Rev. Chris Okotie of the Fresh Democratic Party

No-Hopers:

Lawrence Adedoyin of the African Political System
Olapade Agoro of the National Action Council
Godswill Nnaji of the Better Nigeria Peoples Party
Maj. Mojisola Obasanjo (rtd.) of the Masses Movement of
Nigeria
Emmanuel Okereke of the All Peoples Liberation Party
Maxi Okwu of the Citizens Popular Party
Ambrose Owuru of the Hope Democratic Party
Osagie Obayuwana of the National Conscience Party
Akpone Solomon of the National Majority Democratic Party

Who?:

Aminu Abubakar of the National Unity Party
Galtima Liman of the New Nigeria Peoples Party
Isa Odidi of the New Democrats
Brimmy Olaghene of the Nigeria Peoples Congress

FUREY